

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented): A coating material composition with a gas-barrier property which comprises, as essential components, an ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) obtained by saponifying an ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer, an inorganic layered compound (B) and a solvent,

wherein the total amount of (A) and (B) is 1 to 30% by mass and the mass ratio (A)/(B) is (30/70) to (50/50), and wherein the inorganic layered compound (B) is montmorillonite.

2. (Original): The coating material composition with a gas-barrier property according to Claim 1

wherein said ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) has an ethylene component content of 20 to 60 mole percent and a degree of saponification of a vinyl acetate component of not lower than 95 mole percent.

3. (Original): A process for producing the coating material composition with a gas-barrier property according to Claim 1 or 2

which comprises the step of mixing the inorganic layered compound (B) in a solution of the ethylene-vinyl alcohol copolymer (A) and dispersing the inorganic layer compound (B) in the above solution under a pressure of not lower than 10 MPa using a high-pressure dispersing

device.

4. (Previously Presented): A gas-barrier composite plastic film or sheet

which is obtained by coating at least one side of a plastic film or sheet made of at least one plastic selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters, polyamides and polystyrenes with the coating material composition with a gas-barrier property according to Claim 1 or 2 at a coating weight so as to give a dry coat layer thickness of 0.1 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

5. (Original): A gas-barrier packaging container

which is obtained by shaping the gas-barrier composite plastic film according to Claim 4.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original): A gas-barrier packaging container

which is obtained by further coating a plastic container shaped in the form of a tube, tray, cup, box or bottle with the coating material composition with a gas-barrier property according to Claim 1 or 2 at a coating weight so as to give a dry coat thickness of 0.1 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

8. (Original): A gas-barrier packaging container

which is formed of a composite layer composed of paper and the gas-barrier composite plastic film or sheet according to Claim 4.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.114  
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9. (New): The coating material composition with a gas-barrier property according to claim 1 wherein the solvent comprises an alcohol containing 2 to 4 carbon atoms.